Subject: monograph on Confederate currency

Owens, Harry H.
[Ashland, VA]

1911

Ashland Va.
March 2nd. 1911

The American Numismatic Society, New York.

Gentlemen:-

Recent misfortune compells the writer to sell some valuable possessions. One of these is an an object lesson of great historical value a book described in the accompanying prospectus.

Thanking you in advance for any consideration I may receive at your hands, I am, Sincerely yours

Harry H. Owens
Ashland, Va.

P.S. The Times Dispatch of Richmond, and Mrs H.Y. Randolph President of the Daughters of the Confederacy have appealed to the South to request the Representatives in Congress - to work for the purchase and publication - next December of the Ihian collection.

The Northern side of the story cost the Government #1.228.000 to publish - the Ihian data is quite as important to the historian and greatly desired by the entire South The book I am willing - or rather must sell, will be greatly increased in value a few months later.

HHO

March 18, 1911.

Mr. Harry H. Owens,

Ashland,

Va.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of March 2nd accompanied by a prospectus of the book relating to Confederate Currency. If you will kindly advise me as to the value of this book and any other particulars that you care to give regarding it. I will bring the matter to the attention of this Society and will advise you as to the result. I will retain the prospectus here until I hear from you.

Yours very truly,

Director.

Ashland, Va.

March 18th 1911.

The American Numismatic Society
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

In reply to your letter of the sixteenth beg to say: that the value of the book - showing specimens and giving the history of the currency of the Confederate states of America; is found not so much in the unmatchable collection artistically arranged as in the forty years spent in collecting the exibit; and preparing the history of the same.

The Officers in charge of the Congressional Library at Washington D.C. Those who preside over the Smithsonian museum, State Librarians, Miss Norman

T. Randolph - president of the daughtes of the Confederacy etc, etc. etc have been amazed and delighted when shown the book.

Having shown it to major Hemphill of the Times Dispatch of Richmond, Va. (the gentleman mentioned over the book - and another work prepared by Mr Thian, the place of honor in the editorial columns of his paper. see inclosed copy.

Pressure will be brought to bear by those who claim the south is improperly presented in history - to have Congress in December next - order the purchase and publishing of the Thian data, a truthful statement of the period so important to the South

The book was given to the writer in recognition of the services and money spent during the last two years. Necessity alone causes me to offer it for sale.

The book is one of the links in the chain prepared by Mr Thian - their corresponding history - but giving the Northern side of the story Cost the Government of the United states, One million Two hundred and Twenty eight thousand dollars to publish.

I need money but would not sell at this time knowing it to be bad business on my part to do so, but it is a case of must accordingly appeal to you to do the best you can for me and oblige

Yours very truly Harry H. Owles

Ashland, Va.

March 21, 1911.

Mr. Harry H. Owens,

Ashland,

Virginia.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of March 13th. I do not see how I can bring this matter before the Society until I am informed at what price you are holding the book in question. If you will kindly make me a definite offer, I will then bring the matter up and see if the Society desires to do anything regarding it.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Ashland March 22nd 1911

Mr Bauman L. Belden Director
The American Numismatic
Society N.Y.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of march 21st. beg to say:- I find myself in a measure in the plight expressed by the celebrity recorded in Genesis 25th 32nd. verse.

For this reason will sell the book "The history of the currency of the Confederate States of America" for the sum of Five hundred Dollars.

Those in a position to appreciate the labor expended, and the value of the collection say: Five thousand Dollars is nearer its value, and that its worth will increase because inasmuch as it is so valuable as Confederate history, it is consequently most valuable as American History.

Mrs Randolph - president of the daughters of the Confederacy - urges

writer to enlist the United Confederate Veterans who met at Little Rock in May 16-17-18 to petition the Hon. Geo. W. Gordon, the Secretary of war - J.M. Dickinson, also S.A. Cunningham editor of the Confederate Veteran, Nashville Tenn. to urge action that will put the South in possession of the Trian data - absolutely necessary before the truthful and complete history of the Southern Treasury can be read.

The book I offer for sale is one of the important links of the perfect chain, I will sell because I am pressed for money - not because I am willing to make the sacrifice.

Very respectfully yours
H.H. Owens
Ashland, Va.

Newfork March 22? 1911

Bauman L. Belden Esq
Director

Dear Mr Belden

I have been carefully over the material presented for consideration, which though somewhat indefinite I judge to be a collection of Confederate paper money made by Mr Hessian supplemented with data relative to the notes. How much data or historical information there may be connected with this — or the value thereof (historically) it is impossible for me to judge. The work contains 418 pages but some 330 pages thereof must be the notes themselves, so there are presumably only about 75 pages of text and judging from the sample submitted there is very little reading matter on some of the pages - as you can see.

Without reading and seeing the text I do not see how any fair idea can be gathered regarding it — other than that Hessian is considered a very good authority.

Low, Hazeltine and others have already published very comprehensive lists on the Confederate series, and I hardly think there would be any saleable value for this work for the average collector would prefer a list to a work on the subject. The printing of it would only be a labor of love — it could not pay. It might however be well worth preserving

Now as regards the collection of the notes themselves it is stated 312 genuine notes — in the newspaper article I notice that "the few rare issues unobtainable are replaced by facsimiles" What the 312 notes or their value is a lottery — not knowing exactly what they are I cannot guess. If you will count the number of notes in the collection Mr Huntington showed me recently you can get an idea as to how near it is up to the mark. At best it will but duplicate the more common part of that collection. How many rarities are missing you cannot determine. From the meagre material presented I think that is all I can say on the subject.

You must bear in mind that the market value of the very common issues of Confederate notes is 3¢ each!

Now as to other statements that the printing of the Civil War Records cost the government $1,228,000.00 this may be so, and no doubt they relate more to the Northern side than to the Southern — but on the other hand I think the work will be pretty generally regarded as standing in some measure for both.

The taking up of a special printing of the Southern side only, is a very remote possibility, and it will certainly be many years yet before such a matter would be taken up FOR the reason that next business of this character before this Government will be the printing of the Records of the War of the Revolution. This is much needed and the various patriotic societies all over the country are making a great effort to have this matter taken up. Resolutions have been presented to Congress from Societies in nearly every state in the Union during the past year. This will be a great work and it will certainly be many years before anything else of this character will be undertaken.

Yours very truly

Henry Russell Drowne

Ashland, Va.
March 30th 1911

Mr Bauman L. Belden Director
American Numismatic Society
New York.

Dear Sir:

On receipt of this note if you will kindly advise writer whether the society will buy the history of the currency of the Confederate States of America - or not, you will oblige. A gentleman has promised to loan me the money I am in need of - if I will give to him the book as security and I

don't know how to act in the matter.
Please advise and oblige
Yours very truly
H.H. Dews
Ashland, Va.

PARVA NE PEREANT
THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
156TH STREET, WEST OF BROADWAY
NEW YORK

April 12th, 1911.

Mr. H. H. Owens,

Ashland,

Va.

Dear Sir:

I have submitted the prospectus of the book on Confederate Currency to the Council of this Society, and after due consideration, it has been decided that the Society cannot, at the present time, take this matter up. I am, therefore, returning the prospectus herewith.

I am sorry to have delayed so long in sending this but where a matter has to be submitted to a body for decision, and that body requires consideration before making a final answer, it takes much more time that if it was something to be decided by an individual.

Trusting that you will be able to dispose of this to your satisfaction, I am,

Very truly yours,

Director.

Mr. J. C. Mitchelson of Tariffville, Conn. is very much interested in Confederate Currency.

Mr Bauman H. Belden Director

I am hard pressed for money how much must I cut price asked to make the sale? Respectfully H.H. Owens

April 12th, 1911.

Mr. H. P. Owens,

Ashland,

Va.

Dear Sir:

I have submitted the prospectus of the book on Confederate Currency to the Council of this Society, and after due consideration, it has been decided that the Society cannot, at the present time, take this matter up. I am, therefore, returning the prospectus herewith.

I am sorry to have delayed so long in sending this but where a matter has to be submitted to a body for decision, and that body requires consideration before making a final answer, it takes much more time that if it was something to be decided by an individual.

Trusting that you will be able to dispose of this to your satisfaction, I am,

Very truly yours,

Director.

Mr. J. C. Mitchelson of Tariffville, Conn. is very much interested in Confederate Currency.

May 5th, 1911.

Mr. Barry H. Owens,
706 Barton Avenue,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir:

Your note has been duly received and submitted to the Council, and it has been decided not to make any offer, at the present time, for the book on Confederate Currency.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Ashland, Va.

Mr Bauman L. Belden
Director American Numismatic Soc
New York City

Dear Sir:-

Kindly return the prospectus of the Confederate Currency sent to you March 2nd 1911

And oblige

Very respectfully

H. H. Owens

Ashland, Va.